



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4311

February 23, 2011

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I commend you for your leadership to create a Pentagon that is more efficient and productive while maintaining a sustainable and robust investment in our troops. The American servicemember is the most valuable asset we have as a nation. We owe it to them and to the American taxpayer to ensure the Department of Defense is fiscally responsible.

Taking into account the grave economic situation the United States faces, we must increase our efforts to curtail spending in every branch of government. I remain concerned that your department relies on an outdated and cumbersome financial system to manage the affairs of the Department and continues to underperform. The Pentagon must focus more effort on auditing the systems that it uses to manage its financial affairs. Without a clean audit of these basic functions, the Department cannot assure American taxpayers that their dollars are being spent wisely.

The success of the Department's Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness plan hinges not only upon your direction, but also consistent oversight from the highest echelons of the Department of Defense. I recognize that pressure alone from the Congress is not sufficient to accomplish this challenging goal. To achieve financial audit readiness within the Department requires tangible investment beginning in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

As a CPA, I recognize the difficult task of auditing one of the most complex and multifaceted organizations in the world. Its solution requires fervent attention from senior leadership that will remain steadfast to follow through to completion. Sound financial management will indisputably lead to increased efficiencies. Through these realized savings, military modernization and increased support for military personnel will benefit tremendously.

With this letter, I solicit your thoughts on what Congress needs to do to help the Pentagon attain this goal quicker and more efficiently. Our men and women in uniform deserve a Defense Department that exercises fiscal responsibility. I urge you to make financial auditability a top priority within the Pentagon now and for the future.

Best personal regards,

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